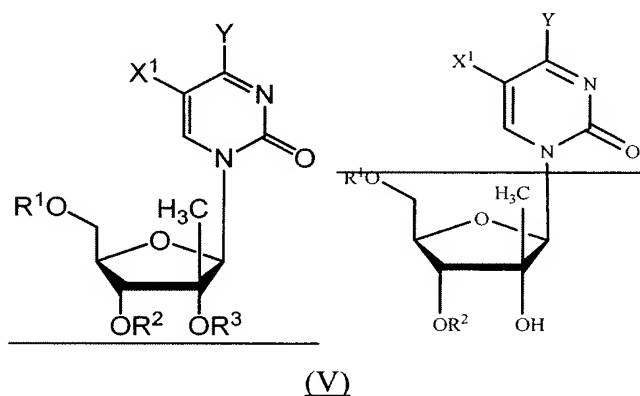


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising administering to a host infected with a hepatitis C virus an effective treatment amount of a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the compound has Formula (V) ~~the formula:~~



wherein:

~~R¹ is H or, mono, di or triphosphate or a stabilized phosphate; acyl, an amino acid residue; a carbohydrate; or a peptide;~~

R² and R³ are independently H, phosphate, acyl or is an amino acid residue,
wherein at least one of R² and R³ is acyl or an amino acid residue;

~~Y is hydrogen, bromo, chloro, fluoro, iodo, OR⁴, NR⁴R⁵ or SR⁴;~~

~~X¹ is H or CH₃ selected from the group consisting of H, straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, chloro, bromo, fluoro, iodo, OR⁴, NR⁴NR⁵ or SR⁵; and~~

Y is hydrogen, bromo, chloro, fluoro, iodo, NH₂ or OH

~~R⁴ and R⁵ are independently hydrogen, acyl, or alkyl.~~

12. - 16. (Canceled).

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is in the form of a dosage unit.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the dosage unit contains 50 to 1000 mg or 1 to 50 mg of the compound.
19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.
20. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the host is a human.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is at least 85% by weight of the β -D-isomer.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the compound, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is at least 90% by weight of the β -D-isomer.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the compound, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is at least 95% by weight of the β -D-isomer.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the compound is in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt selected from the group consisting of a tosylate, methanesulfonate, acetate, citrate, malonate, tartarate, succinate, benzoate, ascorbate, α -ketoglutarate, α -glycerophosphate, formate, fumarate, propionate, glycolate, lactate, pyruvate, oxalate, maleate, salicylate, sulfate, nitrate, hydrobromate, hydrochloride, di-hydrochloride, and phosphoric acid salt.
25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a hydrochloride salt.
26. - 42. (Canceled).
43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a di-hydrochloride salt.
44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein Y is hydrogen.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein Y is bromo, chloro, fluoro or iodo.
46. (Canceled).
47. (Canceled).
48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein X¹ is H.
49. – 52. (Canceled).
53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein R¹ is H.
54. - 61. (Canceled).
62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein R² is a residue of an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine and histidine.
63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein R² is a residue of a naturally occurring or synthetic α , β , γ , or δ amino acid.
64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein R² is a residue of an amino acid in an L configuration.
65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein R² is a residue of valine.
66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein R¹ is mono, di or triphosphate.
67. – 71. (Canceled).